

## Issue Paper for Oregon Technical Advisory Committee

<b>Topic:</b>	Delegation of selected EQIP program responsibilities.	
<b>Presenter / Sponsor(s):</b>	Bill White, NRCS, Leader for Programs	
<b>Issue Statement:</b>	Implementing EQIP and other conservation program can be a very time intensive process requiring a variety of concurrence decisions during the fiscal year. Delegation of operational duties to the BWG and with NRCS review based on local needs and OTAC would expedite programmatic decisions.	
<b>Action Required:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review & Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advice Requested	<input type="checkbox"/> Information <input type="checkbox"/> Other:: _____
<b>Background:</b>	<p>State Technical Advisory Committees (STAC) were establish in each State to assist in the technical considerations and to develop the technical guidelines necessary to implement conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985 (the 1985 Act), as amended. The responsibility of establishing a technical committee was delegated to NRCS in 1990. Although NRCS originally established the Committees; STAC s are currently used in an advisory capacity by various USDA agencies. State Technical Advisory Committees are exempt from the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) requirements because of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994.</p> <p>The in Oregon State Technical Advisory Committee was renamed the Oregon State Technical Advisory Committee (OTAC). The OTAC is organized to provide USDA advice on issues within a variety of conservation programs. The State Conservationist and the FSA State are the co-Chairs of OTAC. The chairs ensure equal representation of all interests and are to consider OTAC's advice.</p> <p>OTAC has two subcommittees, one for Technical and another for Programs, to perform their review role and to make recommendations for their concurrence for the OTAC chairs to consideration. OTAC has provided guidance about new conservation practices and systems not already described in FOTG as well as providing recommendations of conservation priorities on private lands for Farm Bill programs.</p>	
<b>Progress / Current Status:</b>	Based OTAC recommendations NRCS and the BWG have conducted the programmatic implementation decisions related to selection of priority funding areas, concurrence on costs list, etc. BWGs play a significant role in program fund allocation decisions. The intent is to stress "locally lead" conservation decisions.	
<b>Technical / Staff Recommendation:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The OTAC will provide advice for Farm Bill program priorities for conservation on private lands in Oregon. Their guidance should be a critical consideration in identifying broad directions for Farm Bill programs and assisting in coordination of other Federal, State, local, public and private activities as they relate to the OTAC charge.</li> <li>2. Programmatic implementation decisions to carry on the programs should be delegated to the BWG and the designated conservationist.</li> <li>3. NRCS state conservationist will ensure programmatic consistency within Oregon and with neighboring states.</li> </ol>	
<b>Attachment:</b>		